

**Joanne and Florence Gellas**

FLORENCE GELLAS: (inaudible)

Q1: Where did your family come from in Greece; your mother, your father, and when did they arrive?

JOANNE GELLAS: Our father came from the Sparta area. Our mother came from the Kalamata area, the Messenia area. But they knew each other in Greece because my father's people worked for my mother's people in the Messenia area. So as children, they knew each other. And when my father became marriageable age, my grandmother sent my grandfather to Greece to find out if --

FLORENCE GELLAS: -- my mother was married or was available.

Q1: In other words, his father. Your father's father. When did you grandfather come here?

JOANNE GELLAS: My grandparents and my father came in 1898. My father was 14 years old, and he went to school here.

Q1: Did they arrive in Newark, or did they --

JOANNE GELLAS: No, they arrived in New York, and my grandmother did not like living in New York, and they suggested Yonkers and Newark. And she visited Yonkers, and she visited Newark, and they decided on Newark. Newark at that time was quite a leather center, and my grandfather got a job in a

tanning factory. How long he worked there, I don't know. But I remember he had a fruit stand on Market Street near Penn Station, near a restaurant there. And the man who owned the restaurant had a daughter who was killed during the San Francisco fire in 1906. And he lost all interest in life, in business, in everything. This is how my grandfather got into the restaurant business. This man wanted to get rid of his business. Now whether he practically gave it to my grandfather, I don't know. But this is how they got into the restaurant business.

Q1: And they lived in Newark? Where did they live in Newark?

JOANNE GELLAS: On Market Street.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Market Street.

JOANNE GELLAS: On Market Street.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Do remember -- what number, Market Street?

JOANNE GELLAS: 289.

FLORENCE GELLAS: 289 Market --

JOANNE GELLAS: 289 Market Street.

Q1: And when did they come to Newark? What year? Do you know?

JOANNE GELLAS: I don't know what year, but it must have been -- they arrived in the United States in 1898, he didn't like New York, so they must have come to Newark shortly after

that. Certainly in the 1900s. And they were very active in organizing in the Greek Church in Newark. They went to church -- well they wanted to -- in New York City -- they went to Holy Trinity in New York City. And then the group -- the Greek group in Newark decided, well maybe they ought to have their church in Newark instead of traveling all the way to New York. So Holy Trinity said to them, "You can be a branch of our church." [Well?] you know, the Greeks. Everybody is their own boss. So they told the Holy Trinity people, "No, no. We want to start our own parish." And they started St. Nicholas. I think they must have started it around 1906, 1905. 'Cause my mother and father were married in 1908. And they used the priest that they had in Newark, although they didn't have a church. They used to hold the services on Plain (sp?) Street. It was some kind of an auditorium --

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yeah, it was an auditorium.

JOANNE GELLAS: -- that they used for services there. And eventually they made -- my grandfather was treasurer. And he used to go around -- he used to say, "I've traveled all over New Jersey." How far could he have gone? Didn't have a car, anything like that. And he would accept 25 cents. Anything that they left. (inaudible) 1905, 1906 -- 25 cents

was a good thing. And at the time that they were going to buy the lot on which the church now stands, he wouldn't sign the check to buy the lot. Because the church would face the wrong direction.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Oh, that's right.

JOANNE GELLAS: And the bishop came to see him. And he said to him, "You know, Nottie (sp?), [you's just an American?]" What difference does it make? Sign the check and let them buy the property. He signed it, and resigned as treasurer.

Q2: Is that right?

JOANNE GELLAS: That was it. He still went to the church, but he was not --

Q2: That's interesting.

Q1: This was not where St. Nicholas is now, but the --

JOANNE GELLAS: Where it is now, where it is now.

Q1: What about the first one that they made?

JOANNE GELLAS: That was on Academy Street, and it was near the [marsh?] where the --

FLORENCE GELLAS: Was no marsh -- canal! (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, the canal was right in back of the church! The boys at the Greek school used to go to the canal. And it was just a wooden building; one great big room. It had

no icons except the altar screen. And in that room, there were weddings and funerals, meetings, parties, and the Greek school.

Q2: How many parishioners did they have at that time?

Parishioners. What was the total (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

JOANNE GELLAS: How would I know? I was a child. I was a child.

And in this -- they held the Greek school right in the church, and they used movable desks -- not individual desks -- desks that seated about six or eight people. And if the church was going to have some kind of a service, the boys would push all them to the side. And the Greek schoolteacher had all of the classes there together. And the class that he was teaching would sit in the front row, and they would rotate.

Q1: So it was a one-room school.

JOANNE GELLAS: It was a one-room schoolhouse, and we were exposed to all the lessons that the teacher gave.

Q2: You had one teacher at that time?

JOANNE GELLAS: One teacher.

Q2: What was his name, do you remember his name?

JOANNE GELLAS: Pitouli (sp?).

Q2: Pitouli?

JOANNE GELLAS: He became Father Dassis (sp?). Remember Father Dassis?

Q1: Yes!

JOANNE GELLAS: Well Pitouli was the name of the man who had not adopted him, but brought him up. And when he decided to become a priest, he took his natural father's name of Dassis. But we knew him as Pitouli. So he was also the cantor of the church. He was the cantor. And he realized that our parents sent us to that school to learn the Greek language. To be able to read and write it. And at the slightest provocation, he would put on a performance.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yeah, we had plays.

JOANNE GELLAS: He would put on a comedy, or a play of some kind in order to get us to speak the Greek and to learn the Greek. As a matter of fact, people comment on the fact that we speak Greek with no American accent. And I attribute it to that. He always picked on me for an old woman because I had long, curly hair. And he would dust it with powder to make it look gray. My brother, [Jim?], to this day -- my brother, Jim, to this day, every once in a while, he'll say, "[Greek]." He remembers every sentence! He will recite the part that he had. But I attribute our knowledge of Greek to

this man. Once I wrote to my uncle in Greece -- I was so mad at my mother, I said, "Your brother, he returned the letter corrected!"

Q2: The grammar and everything?

Q1: How dare he!

JOANNE GELLAS: I said to my mother -- I said to my mother, "I'm not writing to your brother anymore!"

Q1: This was your father's brother.

JOANNE GELLAS: No, my father was an only child.

Q1: OK, this was your mother's brother.

JOANNE GELLAS: My mother's brother.

A3: Don't think kindly of him. May he rest in peace, but we don't think kindly of him.

JOANNE GELLAS: You're being taped.

Q1: That's all right.

FLORENCE GELLAS: I don't think kindly of him, I hope he rests in peace!

Q1: We're going to transcribe this. Anything that we're going to use, we're going to [get rid of?].

JOANNE GELLAS: My mother got married. After the wedding, he left. Never saw her again.

FLORENCE GELLAS: He left, and we never saw him.

JOANNE GELLAS: Now, what would you [call him?]?

FLORENCE GELLAS: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

JOANNE GELLAS: He wrote, and he said, "Everybody comes back to their native land; and someday your mother can come back to the native land." He never came back to see her; he never saw her again. After they married, he stayed six months to make sure she was happy. He went back to Greece, never came back to the States, and I wrote to him. His wife had died, his son was a doctor, his daughter was married, and he said, "It's up to her mother to visit her homeland. It isn't up to me to come to America." He was a -- something.

Q1: OK.

Q2: Next question.

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible). My cousin used to say that, because his father would hang out of the window as they were walking to school. [Greek]

Q1: (laughter) Your mother, in Kalamata, right? When she was going to school?

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no, no, no.

Q1: I'm sorry, I didn't understand.

JOANNE GELLAS: My mother didn't go to school very long because



she was dyslexic.

Q1: Oh!

JOANNE GELLAS: I wasn't aware of it until I became a teacher. I tried to teacher -- she couldn't write her name. Couldn't teach -- and I couldn't understand. She wasn't a stupid woman.

Q2: Oh, well, sure.

JOANNE GELLAS: I couldn't understand why she couldn't write her name. She used to get it backwards. And then -- her sister and her brother, of course, were... Her sister, as a matter of fact, married a doctor. They were well educated. And she said that she went to school and she just couldn't make it, so they took her out of school.

Q2: No one knew about (inaudible).

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: They think that it's part (inaudible) and she said they used to say to her in school, "Greek."

Q1: Oh, my goodness.

FLORENCE GELLAS: You know how they are.

JOANNE GELLAS: So she didn't -- she wasn't educated, although her sister was and her brother was because... But we didn't realize it until I --

Q1: Well, of course. At that time, the whole (inaudible). Who knew about dyslexia.

Q2: Yes, exactly.

Q1: Exactly.

JOANNE GELLAS: It's only recently that they talk about dyslexia.

Q2: Just a few years.

JOANNE GELLAS: I said to (inaudible). You know what I said?

"Mom was dyslexic." Because she was so bright. I couldn't understand why she couldn't write her name. Couldn't learn to write her name.

Q2: That's amazing. Amazing. How many people had (inaudible).

Q1: What school -- you went to -- you lived in Newark and you went to school in Newark? What schools did you go to?

JOANNE GELLAS: We started out at Lafayette Street School and then we went to Robert Reed (sp?) Junior High School. And after Robert Reed, I went to Central High School. And from Central High School, I went to Rotter (sp?) College, in those days. It's now Rotter University.

Q2: Well, so (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: I wanted to be a business teacher and they wanted me... I was advised to go to New York University. My parents wouldn't think of my going to New York. A young

girl going to New York City? And they told me about Rotter College. My father had a first cousin who lived in Trenton. My father said, "Fine. That's where you're going to go." And I must say, I had a very good teacher training course there. A very good teacher training course. I can't complain. Of course, I had difficulty getting a job because I was crippled. I was wearing a brace.

Q1: Oh, what happened?

JOANNE GELLAS: Is this on?

Q2: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: I was 11 years old, I was running down the street and I tripped and I got an infection and it went into the bone. You know, they had no antibiotics. Yes, no antibiotics in 1922. And they wanted to amputate the leg and my father called -- he had money then. He called the surgeon from New York City and the surgeon said, "Well, the advisable thing is to amputate the leg. But my father says, "I want the leg saved any way you possibly can." So what they did, they removed the ankle joint -- I have no ankle joint -- and scraped the bone all the way up to the knee. And, of course -- I think they had controlled the infection. I was in an automobile accident in Athens in Greece. Do you think that was the leg that got hurt?

FLORENCE GELLAS: It started it up.

Q1: When was this accident?

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, the accident was in '57. I was then in my thirties, late thirties, early forties. And it hasn't -- it's still draining, still draining.

Q1: Now, you went to school, too, right?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Where?

Q1: Well, in Newark.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes, sure.

Q1: And you went to Lafayette and Robert Tree?

JOANNE GELLAS: She went to Beringer (sp?).

Q1: Oh, yes, Beringer. How about your brothers?

JOANNE GELLAS: They went to Central. We lived near Central High School and it had a technical course, it had a business course. It was the only school that had an elevator, and all crippled children went to Central High School. Which is not the reason why I went. It was close to home.

Q2: Right. Where'd you live at that time?

JOANNE GELLAS: Nelson's Place.

Q2: That's right, Nelson's Place.

JOANNE GELLAS: We moved to Nelson's Place in 1919. We lived on

East Park Street, which is right off Military Park. At that time, there was no public service. There was no Newark Athletic Club or Military Park Hotel. There were brownstone houses with wealthy people who had nannies with perambulators and their backyards were tennis courts. And we lived on a side street that ran right into Military Park. We used to play on Military Park. It was our playground. And then my father bought the house, the one family house, on Nelson Place in 1919.

Q2: What number Nelson Place?

JOANNE GELLAS: Thirty-five.

Q2: 5-5?

JOANNE GELLAS: Thirty-five. There was a... That was a residential area. It was a German Jewish area. There were a lot of lawyers, doctors. There was a vice-principal of a school on that street.

FLORENCE GELLAS: It was a red brick house. It had a basement (inaudible). Then they started to buy the houses to tear them down and build the Hall of Records (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: But the only Greeks on that street was... We were living at 35 and on the corner of our street was Kitsopoulos (sp?). On the other corner of our street was Janice (sp?), Janice. They were the only Greeks that were on that street

in 1919.

Q2: Nineteen, right.

JOANNE GELLAS: And when they tore the houses down to put up the Hall of Records, that's when all the -- all the other Greeks came into Nelson Place.

Q2: Right.

Q1: Now, Kitsopoulis is... We don't have that name down.

Q2: Kitso's, Kitso's.

Q1: Kitso's. There's no one around, is there?

JOANNE GELLAS: They never had any children. There were three brothers.

\_: (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: One of them married, he had no children, and the other two never married. And --

Q1: And (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: They were very active in the church.

Q1: Yes, I know. Davos (sp?)?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Davos? What's Davos? The (inaudible) people?

Q1: The (inaudible) people.

Q2: How about the Coffers (sp?)? Jarvis (sp?) Coffers?

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no, no. No, no, no, no. That was Java meeting coffee.

Q2: OK, that's Java. Right, right.

JOANNE GELLAS: But this people's name was Jarvis.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: As a matter of fact, one of the relatives -- what is her last name now?

A3: Who you talking about?

JOANNE GELLAS: Tommy.

A3: Oh, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: Her son is a member of the board at the church. I can't think of her name now. That's funny.

Q1: I know her name. At Saint Nicholas.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes.

FLORENCE GELLAS: What -- her son is on the board.

Q1: Rufus?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Lupus (sp?).

Q1: Lupus.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes.

Q1: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: OK. (inaudible) Lupus was a Jarvis. She was a

Javis. OK. So you can get information from her.

Q1: Right, OK.

Q2: That's good. We're getting -- yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible) Lupus -- the Javis people made Greek bread and delivered it to the houses. So she probably could give you information. Although she came from Maine, I think. She knew (inaudible) Lupus up there.

Q2: OK.

Q1: Yes, get in touch -- do you have Connor's address? That's OK. I'll get it from her -- I'll get it from church. OK.

Q2: (inaudible) church directory. OK, what's the next question, then?

Q1: OK. We know --

JOANNE GELLAS: What was that first question you asked me? What school we went to?

Q1: Where your family came from. What did -- yes. I have your schools. Did you attend school in Newark Schools in grades -- so you went through -- you went through the whole Newark system through high school and then you went to Rotter College. How about your brothers?

JOANNE GELLAS: My brother Jim went to what was then University of Newark.



Q2: Newark Engineering School?

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no, no. No. There's a school in Newark.

Q2: Newark [Laurel?] School? The [Laurel School?]?

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, no. They merged with Rutgers.

Q2: Rutgers.

JOANNE GELLAS: They merged with Rutgers.

Q1: Oh, all right.

JOANNE GELLAS: My brother Jim went, I think, for one year. My other two brothers didn't go to school. My father lost his money.

Q1: All right. Now, what was the name of your father's restaurant in Newark? Do you remember?

JOANNE GELLAS: Splendid. The Splendid at 320 Market Street. He was involved helping relatives with a restaurant in Orange and he was also active in supporting the Orange church. Somebody said that the Orange church was an offshoot of Saint Nicholas. No. It was never an offshoot of Saint Nicholas.

Q2: Now, when did Uncle Tom -- what year did he lose his business? What year was that he lost the business (inaudible)?

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible).

Q2: Depression.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Depression.

Q2: Depression.

FLORENCE GELLAS: The Depression and he was a broken man, completely broken. Went to pieces from then on.

JOANNE GELLAS: From then on.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Never pick (inaudible).

Q2: My dad, Uncle Louie, started the restaurant there and also was the same address.

JOANNE GELLAS: Well, they took it over.

Q2: Took it over.

JOANNE GELLAS: They established the restaurant that my father had.

Q2: It was in the '30s.

JOANNE GELLAS: My father made a mistake and went into the hotel business. If he had stayed in the restaurant business, he would have been all right. And, of course, he had invested a lot of money in real -- every once in a while, we go up Route 10, up in Popsittee (sp?) and Gus will say, "Dad's lots."

A3: Yes, he bought all those.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, yes. You look at them. See, he lost all that. He had property up there, he had property in Long Island. Because he was well off.

Q2: Oh, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: I mean, he bought this house in 1919, got a one family house. Every summer for the month of July, we went to a farm and for the month of the --

Q2: Shore -- July --

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no, no. We went to the shore in August because Grandma said the ocean was warmer in August. So for the month of July, we spent it on a farm --

Q1: Whenever --

JOANNE GELLAS: -- and for the month of August he rented a house in Long Branch because my grandmother did not approve of any of the other beaches. So we really didn't get to know the Greeks. They all went to --

FLORENCE GELLAS: Avon.

JOANNE GELLAS: -- Bradley, Bradley Beach.

A3: Bradley Beach, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: The Greeks went to Bradley Beach. We went to Long Branch.

FLORENCE GELLAS: We had -- we didn't have too many contacts

with the Greeks.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

FLORENCE GELLAS: She said, "There are five of you. You don't need anybody else."

Q1: Did you have any American friends?

FLORENCE GELLAS: (inaudible) did.

JOANNE GELLAS: I had one girlfriend, Edith White. She lived down the street. She -- her grandmother was English and she liked to play what was bridge and Edith had a (inaudible) that lived with the grandmother. So there was the grandmother, the (inaudible) man and my friend. That's three. And the old lady wanted to play bridge. Who do you think was brought in to learn bridge? This is not contract bridge. This is auction bridge, which is an offshoot of whist. And I never got to learn contract bridge because I decided I would learn it after I graduated from college when I had time.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: I had get a job. And I had trouble getting a job, a teaching job.

Q1: What did you do -- what did you do before you got a teaching job? Or didn't you?

JOANNE GELLAS: Substituted.

Q1: You substituted?

JOANNE GELLAS: I substituted. I had a permanent sub, where they would appoint me for a year. I substituted before I got -- and then they gave the exam for the teacher clerks. In those days, in order to work in a school office, you had to have a teacher's license, so in case there was an emergency, the clerk could take over the class.

Q2: Is that right? That's interesting.

JOANNE GELLAS: That was discontinued right after the Depression. I think in '39. I think in '39 they discontinued that. They took in civil service people.

Q2: So what year did you start your permanent teaching job at (inaudible)? What year did you start?

JOANNE GELLAS: I think in '39.

Q2: '39.

JOANNE GELLAS: I'm not sure. Wait a minute. No, it couldn't have been '39. Before that. Because I retired in '78 and I had 40 years experience, so it must have been '38.

Q2: '38. Was it at Central High School or Beringer? Which --

JOANNE GELLAS: I graduated -- I retired from Beringer.

Q2: Beringer. But your first job was at Central?

JOANNE GELLAS: At Central, I was a teacher clerk.

Q2: A teacher clerk, OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: I did the scheduling for the entire school by hand. And I took an oral to get a teaching position.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: Very stupidly, I did nothing about it after I took the exam. I was third in the exam. I didn't get an appointment, and suddenly it occurred to me that the list expires after three years. You know, and it was the beginning of the third year. My father used to say to me, "Is there something I can do to help you get a teaching job?" and I'd say, "No, I want to do it on my own." Well... I said, "Dad, see what you can do for me." He still had influence. He went out. One month after my father got active, I was told that coming February 1<sup>st</sup>, I would be transferred to teaching. So I asked my father, who -- well, he said he -- he never (inaudible) who we saw. So I went to see the President of the Board of Education and I said, "I appreciate it, you know, doing that." I said, "Will you tell me why I didn't get my appointment when I was third on the list?" "Because your principal didn't want to leave you from the office."

Q2: You were too good.

Q1: Of course.

Q2: You were scheduling and everything else. You were too good.

Q1: Of course.

Q2: Very (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Very stupidly, I waited until the list almost expired. I would have had to take the exam all over again.

Q2: Things haven't changed even today, I'm sure (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, sure.

Q1: How -- was your father involved in Newark politics and Newark government?

A3: No.

JOANNE GELLAS: He knew a lot of the people in City Hall. Don't ask me how, but he knew -- they came to the restaurant. He knew the Essex County -- the Essex County person. He knew people. He knew influential people. Don't ask me how he did it. You know...

Q2: A businessperson, I guess, (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: They... Incidentally, I was doing a paper for Rotter College and I consulted the business library, the Newark Business Library on Commerce Street. My father and grandfather are listed in that.

Q2: That's interesting.

JOANNE GELLAS: I think they're listed under the name of  
Geladaris.

Q2: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: Which in Greek -- OK -- the name of --

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: Geladaris. G-E-L-A-D-A -- G-E-L-A-D-A- -- G-E-L-  
A-D-A-R-I-S.

Q2: Geladaris.

JOANNE GELLAS: Now, when my father was naturalized, he wanted to  
take the family name, which was --

\_: Grebadis (sp?)..

JOANNE GELLAS: Grebadis. Grebadis. My grandfather said to him,  
"Geladaris was good enough for me, it's good enough for me."  
So he made it Gellas, a nice Jewish name.

\_: (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: We knew a lot of Jews. We knew a lot of Jews  
that were good to us.

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, yes. Yeah.

Q1: Well, that's important to know, yes.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Well, we had a lot of good Jewish friends. A  
lot of good Jewish friends (inaudible).



JOANNE GELLAS: I'll tell you, he lost all this money, he was out of everything. I asked him to help me get my teaching job, in 30 days he had done it. He still had his contacts. But he was a broken man. He was a broken man.

A3: He never (inaudible) again.

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible) he had a lot of money and all of a sudden he had nothing. We had to support him. It's hard for --

\_: (inaudible) true.

JOANNE GELLAS: -- a Greek man to have -- have had --

\_: (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Exactly. He was -- how old was he? He was young.

FLORENCE GELLAS: When he lost his money?

A3: Seventy.

JOANNE GELLAS: Let's see. He was born in 1884. He lost his money when? When was the Depression? Thirty-two? Must have been 50.

A3: Fifty.

A3: Just about 50.

Q2: Well, (inaudible) want to talk to Mike Marcus (sp?) in New York. There's a Mike Marcus who has...

JOANNE GELLAS: My mother's... My grandmother's brother --

A3: Because he lost a lot of money. My mother was telling me --

JOANNE GELLAS: My grandmother called (inaudible) was going to  
jump out the window.

A3: Well, he had big business.

\_: Yes, yes.

A3: My mother used to tell me I'm -- go outside to --

JOANNE GELLAS: My grandmother -- my grandmother's (inaudible) was  
(inaudible).

A3: Right. He used to come to the house with his chauffeur.

\_: Yeah.

JOANNE GELLAS: He had a Packard.

\_: (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible) in those days.

A3: Aunt Mabel -- the chauffer... I mean, there was a little --  
she was something else.

JOANNE GELLAS: He was something else. My grandma -- my mother  
used to be furious with him. He'd come to the house, take  
his handkerchief off and dust the chair before he sat down,  
and my mother was furious when he did that.

A3: But he had a big business. He lost everything also

(inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: He was quite a guy.

A3: Yes, I remember.

JOANNE GELLAS: But he lost his money, and my grandmother was visiting him, and she fell asleep, and then all of a sudden, she walked -- woke up and he was halfway out the window. She was able to pull him back.

Q2: That is something. I didn't know --

JOANNE GELLAS: He was going to commit suicide.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

A3: (inaudible) restaurant in Harlem on 125<sup>th</sup> Street.

JOANNE GELLAS: But it wasn't what it is today.

A3: No.

FLORENCE GELLAS: It was a family restaurant with tablecloths. It wasn't just a -- it was a big place in New York at that time.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, it was quite a -- had quite a reputation as a very fine restaurant.

Q2: I (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Anyway...

FLORENCE GELLAS: You're talking an awful lot.

Q1: No, OK. (inaudible) what we want.

Q2: You're doing great.

Q1: Did you -- did your parents belong to any Greek or American organizations?

JOANNE GELLAS: A handful. A handful. My father belonged... He was a charter member of the (inaudible) but he dropped out when he was... And the (inaudible) gave me a scholarship when I went to Rotter College.

Q2: Is that right? That's good. That's good to know.

Q1: That's nice to know, right?

Q2: That's nice to know. That's good.

Q1: And how about your mother? Was she just (inaudible)?

JOANNE GELLAS: No.

Q1: She wasn't active. She wasn't active in anything?

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Well, she was active in the Greek War Relief.

Q1: All right, that -- yes. Tell us about the Greek War Relief, because I know mom was, too.

JOANNE GELLAS: She was very active in the Greek War Relief. Very active.

Q2: What were they doing with the Greek War Relief? How -- what

type of things were they doing?

JOANNE GELLAS: Think I paid attention?

Q2: No?

Q1: See, I don't pay attention either.

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, I think she rolled bandages.

Q2: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: I don't know what else. They knitted things, made things.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes, they made things. Knit and crocheted.

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible) they did a lot of knitting for them. Lot of knitting.

Q2: Do you remember -- because someone said -- I don't know how true it is. Because we're trying to validate the story -- that Mr. Adams had Harry James and the Andrew Sisters --

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, he did.

Q2: -- perform at a dance for the Greek (inaudible). Do you remember that?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yeah. She performed at the church dances. Yes. Church (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: He had a show perform at the church dances.

JOANNE GELLAS: The one -- depending who his headliners were at the time that the church was having their affair. But they were there.

Q2: So you -- the Andrew Sisters, the (inaudible)?

JOANNE GELLAS: At one of the -- at one of the church dances, he had Artie Shaw and his band.

Q2: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: And listen to this. So when Artie Shaw and his band finished, you know, they were on their way out and the Greek band was getting ready for the Greek dances and this fellow starts with the cliaba (sp?). Artie Shaw spun on his heel and he (inaudible). When he heard the cliaba, he was on his way out and he heard the cliaba. You -- I can close my eyes and see it. He spun around and he was looking at the fellow playing the cliaba.

Q2: Is that right?

A3: There were actually -- there were noted band leaders that performed at (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, yes. He had his (inaudible) show. Whatever his show was -- whoever he was featuring at the time.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Whatever -- whatever was featured at the Adams Theater at the time, and he thought it was

appropriate.

Q2: Right.

FLORENCE GELLAS: And we were giving a church dance, they would be the entertainment.

A3: They would be the entertainment.

Q2: They would be the entertainment.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

Q2: That's good. See, because we --

A3: He did have a (inaudible).

Q2: We're going to interview his son Peter.

A3: Yeah. You're what?

Q2: Peter. We're going to interview his son Peter about his dad.

\_: Well, not as quiet. He was a quiet one.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes. Daddy is the one that (inaudible).

A3: (inaudible) one around. He's the only one around.

Q2: Well, Peter's here, too.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes, Peter's around.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, in (inaudible).

A3: (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. He was so young, so far down the line.

Scotty would be the one to talk to.

Q2: Yes, all right.

Q1: I'm going to ask, did you -- did any of your brothers or your father work for any Greek American -- any Greek Americans in business, or did they hire any Greek Americans in their businesses?

FLORENCE GELLAS: I don't understand.

Q1: Did they work for anyone else?

FLORENCE GELLAS: My brothers?

Q1: Yes. Any Greek Americans?

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. They worked for the florist.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Lois.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. Lois -- Lois was one of them and the Washington florist after school.

Q2: Lois (inaudible) work.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes.

Q2: Yes. A Washington florist.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. It's on (inaudible) Street.

Q2: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: And they worked there after school hours and during the summer.



Q2: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: And that's how my brother George got into the florist business.

Q2: The florist business, OK.

Q1: And your other brothers got in, too?

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

Q1: Oh.

FLORENCE GELLAS: He worked for Pennsylvania Railroad. As a matter of fact, he's down on social security. Is it social security?

JOANNE GELLAS: He's on --

(break in audio)

JOANNE GELLAS: But they (inaudible) when you go on a job interview.

\_: Yeah.

Q1: And how long did you work for the doctor?

A3: I don't remember.

\_: (inaudible) time.

\_: Sure.

A3: A long, long time. Then when I left there, went to work at the business.

FLORENCE GELLAS: She worked with the medical -- in the medical department.

A3: All the way --

Q1: So you all went in different directions, actually. And then you're -- Jim and Gus --

FLORENCE GELLAS: George was a florist. George was a florist.

JOANNE GELLAS: Even Gus went into the restaurant business.

Q1: OK.

A3: (inaudible).

Q2: But where was the restaurant located? Where was this restaurant?

JOANNE GELLAS: Which? Brother's?

Q2: Brother's, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: Commerce Street.

Q2: And when did they open that business? What year? Do you remember?

JOANNE GELLAS: Well, they didn't open up that business. They bought out somebody.

A3: German. I think it was a German who moved away.  
(inaudible).

\_: (inaudible) long time.

A3: Up until the time that -- (inaudible).

Q2: Right, right.

A3: And they (inaudible).

Q2: Brother's Restaurant on Commerce Street.

A3: Yes, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: And it was open five days a week from 11:00 to  
9:00.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: Good hours.

Q2: Good hours.

JOANNE GELLAS: This is why my brother Jim's son went into the  
restaurant business. He's paid for it with bloody sweat.  
He has the Ponderosa.

Q1: Right. (inaudible).

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

Q2: (inaudible) Hill, right?

\_: Where?

Q2: The (inaudible)?

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no. Yes, yes.

Q2: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: It was where -- you know where Pal's is. It's in

the back of Pal's.

Q2: Right. OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: And -- but he -- what -- when he first saw it there, it wasn't the way it is now.

FLORENCE GELLAS: No, it wasn't, but that's the way it is now. He -- he went to LeHigh (sp?) University, had a job with the Federal Reserve, got tired of travel -- traveling. But he was on the verge of getting an office job and he decided -- his father made it in the restaurant business, he'll go into the restaurant business. But he doesn't -- he didn't realize that Brother's Restaurant was not the traditional restaurant business.

JOANNE GELLAS: Right.

Q2: OK. (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: And he is paying blood at Ponderosa.

Q1: When -- did they hire any Greek Americans for the business? To work in the business at Brother's? (inaudible) Brother's?

JOANNE GELLAS: Close? No. They didn't hire any Greek Americans that were close to them in that place.

FLORENCE GELLAS: No. No, no.

Q1: No, I mean to work in the restaurant. That --

FLORENCE GELLAS: You know, they had a (inaudible). They were a Greek -- they had Greek waiters.

Q1: Yes, that's what I meant.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes. They had a Greek dishwasher.

Q1: Yes. Were they from the Newark area?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes. Yes, from the Newark area. Yes.

Q1: All right. Let me go on. You've given us -- but give us a background about your family life in Newark.

JOANNE GELLAS: our family life in Newark?

Q1: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: We had parties every weekend.

Q1: OK.

Q2: Yes. That's what we want to hear.

Q1: Yes, exactly.

Q2: What was it like living in a Greek neighborhood?

FLORENCE GELLAS: (inaudible) a Greek neighborhood.

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible) have a lot of first cousins --

Q1: That's right. That's what they say.

JOANNE GELLAS: My moth -- my grandmother was the oldest of nine children and she was very family conscious. And she had all nieces and nephews and their families Easter, Christmas.

[Greek.] But strictly family.

Q2: Strictly family.

JOANNE GELLAS: Strictly family.

Q2: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: Met -- so that we really didn't get to know too many outsiders.

Q2: Outsiders.

JOANNE GELLAS: Outsiders. It was strictly family.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Well, she had her foot down. Said, "There are enough of you. There are five of you. You don't need anybody else." But then when she entertained, she only entertained nieces and nephews. She didn't entertain outsiders.

Q2: OK.

FLORENCE GELLAS: So we weren't accustomed to having outsiders coming into our house.

Q2: Right, OK.

Q1: Were you involved at all in -- when you went to Greek school, let's say. Were you involved with any of the other students who were there?

FLORENCE GELLAS: In the choir. No.

Q1: You were in the choir, too?

FLORENCE GELLAS: No, no. We knew them, but we didn't have anything to do with them.

Q1: You didn't have anything to do with them.

JOANNE GELLAS: Were not involved. No -- no home visits, exchanging, home visits or anything like that.

Q1: No going out together to...?

JOANNE GELLAS: No, not at all.

Q1: No. Did you get involved in any of the Greek con -- Greek organizations? The Greek American organizations like (inaudible)?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes, they have them. They have them.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. And they -- at that time, it was called the Maidens of Athens.

Q1: Maidens of Athens. Maidens of Athens.

JOANNE GELLAS: I was district governor.

Q1: Oh, all right.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. I worked in the convention up in -- where was the convention? Up in New England somewhere. And on the way -- on the way home, we heard of the starting of the war, some war started. We had the --

Q2: Wasn't Pearl Harbor?

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no. It wasn't Pearl Harbor. Pearl Harbor was in the fall. We were at a christen -- we were at a christening when we heard about Pearl Harbor. But this -- we were driving back from the hepa (sp?) convention in New England. I don't even remember where it was. And we heard on the radio (inaudible) what it was.

Q1: Question. Who was we? You said you were drive -- you went to New England. Who's we?

JOANNE GELLAS: Who was I with?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Who were you with?

JOANNE GELLAS: Who was I...

Q2: That's pretty...

JOANNE GELLAS: You should have asked me five years ago. Today I don't remember anything.

Q2: That's all right. That's OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: Let's see. Who was I with?

Q1: I mean, was it relatives that you went up with?

JOANNE GELLAS: I was up with Dorothy Scopas (sp?), who was not married to my brother at that time. She was active in the Maids of Athens, also.

Q1: They were from Trenton, right? (inaudible)?



JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. She lived in Trenton.

FLORENCE GELLAS: She was very active.

JOANNE GELLAS: She lived in Trenton. You see, we had an aunt who lived in Trenton. I went to Rotter College in Trenton and Mr. Scopas was the best man at my aunt's wedding. And my mother -- my grandmother knew the Scopas family from Greece, so that we knew them.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Who else was up there in that convention?

Q1: But your parents let you go and...?

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, it was the (inaudible). Maids of Athens. It was Greek. It wasn't American, it was Greek. And I traveled with these Greeks. And I'm trying to remember who I roomed with. I roomed with one of the Greek girls. But I don't remember.

Q1: Were you involved at all, Florence?

FLORENCE GELLAS: No.

JOANNE GELLAS: No, she wasn't involved.

Q1: Were your brothers involved in that (inaudible)?

JOANNE GELLAS: They were involved in the Sons of Perocles. They were on the basketball team. And that's a... They -- you know.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Well, we had contacts that way. But not

intimate contact.

Q1: Not intimate, just...

FLORENCE GELLAS: That's right. (inaudible) intimate contact.

A3: We were enough amongst ourselves.

Q1: How do you feel about that?

JOANNE GELLAS: Now? Hey listen, you want to -- you want to know something? There was a show on TV about a black family and this man had five daughters, I think, this black man. And I thought of my grandmother. There are enough of you, you don't need outsiders. The black man said to him, "You don't need any outsiders. There are five of you." His daughters became lawyers and doctors and everything. It was a documentary, not a --

FLORENCE GELLAS: Right. Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: -- (inaudible) a play. It was real life.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: And when I heard this black man say, "There are five of you. You don't need outsiders."

Q2: That's it.

JOANNE GELLAS: Another one. Another one.

Q1: But when -- when teaching, didn't you have friends?

JOANNE GELLAS: Teaching? Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

Q1: Yes. And you were in the office, too.

JOANNE GELLAS: I had touch with them. And this -- we worked on  
(inaudible) alive. So many of them had died. I was very  
active, too, in the retired educators association.

A3: Up until a year or so again.

JOANNE GELLAS: I had all -- I had all the reservations for the  
lunches and things like that.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: Up until about a year or two ago, we were --

A3: (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: I had a -- a friend whose first name is Joanna and  
she calls and she's, "This is Joanna, Joanna." But, you  
know, everybody knows me, family and greets as Jenny.

Q2: Jenny.

JOANNE GELLAS: And I want them to call me Jenny. But when we  
went to get our passports to go to Greece, my birth  
certificate was in Greece. (inaudible). So we went to  
court to have our names legalized and in Greek the name  
Yoanna (sp?) is Joanna.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: So I had it made Joanna. J for Jenny, Joanna

Jenny Gellas.

Q2: Jenny Gellas, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: And I tell people, "That's my legal name. If you know me as Jenny, I'm still Jenny."

Q2: Right, right.

JOANNE GELLAS: You don't have to call me Joanna.

Q2: That's obviously difficult.

JOANNE GELLAS: People who have met me as Joanna call me Joanna.

Q1: I met you as Joanna.

Q2: Jenny.

JOANNE GELLAS: Jenny's -- Jenny's Jenny.

Q2: It's like my brother-in-law. They know him as Dino at Holy Trinity, but the one's that know him, it's Gus.

A3: Yes. I always thought of him as Gus.

Q2: Yes, I know. It's Dino.

Q1: Did you have friends working at a doctor's office?

FLORENCE GELLAS: No.

A3: I worked all hours.

FLORENCE GELLAS: How would you make friends in the doctor's?  
She and the doctor.

Q1: Well, patients.

A3: Patients?

Q1: All right.

FLORENCE GELLAS: He did a lot of compensation work.

A3: Oh, patient work. He did compensation work.

Q1: OK, OK.

A3: It didn't have a lot of...

Q1: Can you relate anything about the church and your experiences with the church and your parents experiences. Your father's (inaudible)?

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, I told you about my grandfather not wanting to sign the... My grand -- when they first started the church -- I think they started in 1906. Did you find out from the church when they started?

Q1: I think 1904.

JOANNE GELLAS: 1904.

Q2: 1904.

JOANNE GELLAS: My grandmother... They used to buy candles, but they didn't have too much money. And they would collect the candles and she would melt them and remake candles.

A3: We would help her.

JOANNE GELLAS: Because then they wouldn't -- so they wouldn't

have to buy...

A3: Re -- put a cord in it and you'd dip them in the wax.

\_: (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: But she had a board, a (inaudible) and she'd hang the width of these boards, get the -- when it got dry, she kept dipping it and dipping it until --

JOANNE GELLAS: Until it got thick enough and...

FLORENCE GELLAS: -- it got thick enough and then she would cut the bottom off to get it straight.

Q1: So when you lived in Newark, you lived with your grandparents and your parents?

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no. My -- we lived with my grandpar -- my father was an only child. My mother's parents were dead. So when my mother and father married, they lived with my parent's and we grew up with my grandparents and my parents.

FLORENCE GELLAS: And aunts.

JOANNE GELLAS: Huh?

FLORENCE GELLAS: And aunts.

JOANNE GELLAS: Well, they would bring a niece from Greece to help my mother with the children. I showed you that one picture. She's a goddaughter. She's a goddaughter, she's not a niece. And let me tell you about her. She started her own

church.

Q2: Is that right?

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes.

Q2: In Newark?

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no.

FLORENCE GELLAS: In New York.

JOANNE GELLAS: It was called White Flags, I think.

Q2: Wow.

JOANNE GELLAS: She started her own church. She was a  
(inaudible). But she was a goddaughter. But they would  
bring a niece from Greece to help my mother with the  
children, and then marry her off, pay for the wedding and  
marry her off. They did that with how many nieces? I think  
--

A3: We were told --

JOANNE GELLAS: Three that I can recall.

A3: Jenny, we were told... In fact, there were four churches in  
Newark at one time and then...

Q2: I don't remember four churches.

Q1: Four churches?

A3: That's what we were told. There are actually four --

A\_: What?

Q2: There were four churches, but then two left and the two remained were Saint Nicholas and Saint Demetrius.

JOANNE GELLAS: I've got -- well, wait a minute, though.

Q2: There was the old church (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Saint Nicholas was the church and when Father Speragaku (sp?) became the pastor of Saint Nicholas in 1918, he made certain restrictions about talking, about... Which -- he was right.

Q2: Right. Talking.

JOANNE GELLAS: And some of the people objected to his restrictions.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: He didn't want the women -- the way he read the gospel, they would go and kneel underneath as he held the gospel book and he pretty much stopped that. He said there was no purpose to it. Also, people walking up to the altar to light candles --

FLORENCE GELLAS: No lighting candles at any time during the service.

JOANNE GELLAS: He would have the board, at one time, bring three or four candles alight, and these people objected to his



doing that. He didn't permit talking in the church.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: Socializing in the church. So they left and started Saint Demetrius.

Q2: OK, that's what we were told. Thank you.

JOANNE GELLAS: And my grandmother attended both churches. She -- she's an (inaudible). This is what they wanted to do. Then there was a church with the old calendar.

Q2: Yeah. I'm familiar with it. Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: And then there was another church. I don't remember what the other church was. I don't remember. It was some kind of an apostolic kind of church.

Q1: (inaudible) I read about it in those directors that I told you about.

Q2: Yes, yes, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: And finally it was just Saint Demetrius and Saint Nichols, right.

Q2: OK, yes.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Right, yes.

Q2: So say it was a lot of talking and order with Father Spelargy.

\_ : It's Father Pedakey (sp?).

Q2: Pedsky. Which shit has more for the father (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: And (inaudible) are trying to be too loud. I liked it the way Father Spelargy had it. Well, he was... And his sermons were excellent, (inaudible). You learned something from him.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Well, he was a teacher.

Q2: Right, right.

JOANNE GELLAS: Right, yes. He came from a family of priests and bishops and he was in the theological school in Greece at Kaku (sp?) in (inaudible). And he decided he didn't want to be a priest and he left the school and his family was embarrassed. So they shipped him to Greece -- to the United States. And he worked as principal of the Greek American school in Washington Heights, where he met Mrs. Beadarky, who was a teacher there. And they married.

Q2: All right.

JOANNE GELLAS: And then he decided he wasn't making enough money as a principal to support a family, so he got himself ordained and became a priest. He became a priest. Became a priest, yes. And he adored -- he'd (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: He worshiped --

JOANNE GELLAS: And he always called (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: He worshiped.

Q2: (inaudible) worshipped.

JOANNE GELLAS: She became ill. He took care of her in every way.

Nursed her. And, you know, after she died, the archbishop wanted to elevate Father Spelargy. And Father Spelargy said, "Physically she may be dead, but she will be with me for the rest of my life. I will always be married." He said, "I'm sorry, I cannot accept." Because you had to be celibate to become a bishop or an archbishop and (inaudible) wanted to elevate him. Wouldn't accept it.

Q2: How about that.

JOANNE GELLAS: Because it would deny Lula.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: He adored her. Oh, he adored her. And she was so different from him. In church, she was opposite. You know, in church she would talk to somebody next to her and he'd reprimand her.

Q1: I've heard stories about that.

JOANNE GELLAS: He'd reprimand her in church. (inaudible) now godmother to his grandson and his great-granddaughter.

Q1: On the son's side or the daughter's -- Marika's side?

Marika is married to Arjus (sp?), right?

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: On that side, on that side.

Q2: On that side.

JOANNE GELLAS: On her side, Florence was godmother to Neil's son  
and godmother to his daughter.

FLORENCE GELLAS: You know what's funny --

Q1: Didn't they have a son, too?

\_: Huh?

Q1: Didn't they have a son -- Father and Mrs. Spelargy, didn't  
they have a son?

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, Manual (sp?).

Q1: Oh.

FLORENCE GELLAS: He died.

JOANNE GELLAS: Manual. He died. He has died. He was married to  
a non-Greek. But when Mary was pregnant for the third  
child, Tom said to Florence, "Will you be godmother to our  
next child? Maybe it will be a girl." So when it was born,  
he calls up. "Fifi -- " (inaudible) used to call her Fifi.  
He said, "Fifi, it's another boy." She said, "I'll still be  
a godmother."

Q2: I didn't know that.

JOANNE GELLAS: And then when he grew up and married and his wife was pregnant, he said to Florence -- he said to Florence, "You were such a good godmother to me. Would you be godmother to my child."

Q1: Oh, isn't that something.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Godmother to...

JOANNE GELLAS: So she was godmother to him, so she was godmother to his daughter.

Q2: Isn't that something. I didn't know that.

Q1: That's wonderful.

Q2: I'm very impressed with this.

JOANNE GELLAS: You know, Father Spelargy's family went to Greece for a while. Mrs. Spelargy took the children and went to Greece and they lived with us on Nelson Place.

Q2: Oh, I didn't know that.

Q1: Oh.

JOANNE GELLAS: We had... We had... The upper floor had an apart -- not an apartment, but it had a wash basin in the -- and he had that room with the wash basin.

FLORENCE GELLAS: And that was his --

JOANNE GELLAS: My mother had assigned that room to him because he had his own private wash basin (inaudible). That was quite a house, that house on Nelson Place. Do you know that when they tore everything down, that house was -- it had the office. It was the headquarters.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Is it?

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: We'd go by there. My mother would say, "[Greek]." So one day we went by, she said, "[Greek]." But there used to be an office.

FLORENCE GELLAS: (inaudible). Used to be (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Quite a house. It was quite a house.

Q2: A beautiful street. Beautiful street.

JOANNE GELLAS: Well, it had parquet floors, beautiful parquet floors.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes. Well, they were all professionals on that street. They were all dentists and everything.

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, you know who lived two doors away from us?

Q1: Who?

JOANNE GELLAS: Jerome Curd (sp?).

Q2: Oh.

A3: Yeah. Over...

JOANNE GELLAS: He lived at 37 -- 35.

Q1: Did you ever have anything to do with your neighbors?

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh (inaudible). Well, we did with our next door neighbor, only because my father knew the man. He had a sign business and my father used to buy the signs from him.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yeah. The [dogs?] that walked around with signs on the side advertising. They were the people. It was law and order in those days (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: They were our next door neighbors.

Q2: Now, where did Mike Poulis (sp?) -- he had a house there. Mike Poulis had a house there in Nelson Place. That's probably --

JOANNE GELLAS: Who's Mike Poulis?

Q2: You don't remember him? Mike Poulis? Very...

JOANNE GELLAS: Well, you know, (inaudible). Huh?

FLORENCE GELLAS: The one that took over.

JOANNE GELLAS: Took over what?

Q1: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: Took over what?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Thirty-five.

Q2: Mike was...

JOANNE GELLAS: No, no.

Q2: He might have been... I -- it was around that -- that number, I think, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible) his godfather.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: Was his name Poulis?

FLORENCE GELLAS: No, it was abbreviated.

Q2: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: Then I guess (inaudible).

Q2: Stephanopoulis (sp?).

JOANNE GELLAS: You know, poulis at the end of a Greek name means son of. Because Stephanopoulis would be Stevenson. But...

A3: (inaudible) stuff like that.

Q2: Anyway, got a kick.

Q1: Did any of your brothers serve in the armed forces?

JOANNE GELLAS: What? Our brothers? All three of them served in the Air Forces. Jim was (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: The armed forces.

Q1: That's all right. The Air Force is an armed force.

JOANNE GELLAS: Jim was a major under Patton in... It was a



motorized division. Gus was in the Air Force. He was a radar specialist in the Air Force. George was with the military police. He was a lieutenant with the military police, because he was with the New Jersey State Police, and that's how he got into the military police. And he very stupidly listened to his wife and quit -- quit the state police. Probably would have had a pension and everything. But she wanted him home. She wanted him home for dinner.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Oh, with the state police, he (inaudible).

Q2: (inaudible).

Q1: I've already asked that. I wanted one more question. Was your father ever in the armed services?

FLORENCE GELLAS: No.

JOANNE GELLAS: No. No. Not in Greece or here. No.

Q1: OK. Did you... Did you know Jenny Javalas (sp?).

JOANNE GELLAS: Sure.

Q1: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: Leah. Of course we knew Leah.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: She was the youngest in the family.

Q1: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: No, Mary was the youngest.

Q2: Was Mary the youngest? She just died.

A3: Leah.

JOANNE GELLAS: Mary was younger than Leah, wasn't she? No?

Q2: Where did he live and how do you know him?

JOANNE GELLAS: What?

Q2: Where did he grow up? Where did he live?

JOANNE GELLAS: Baldwin Street.

Q2: On Baldwin Street?

JOANNE GELLAS: 51 Baldwin.

Q2: 51 Baldwin Street.

JOANNE GELLAS: That was their home.

Q2: That was their home, OK.

A3: We'd spend a lot of time there and Minnie (sp?) always lived across the street from that.

Q2: Minnie Zouras (sp?)? Yes.

A3: OK.

Q2: Father's mother.

A3: Father's mother.

Q1: And he -- George said that he had read in his -- because George was with him in Fort San Heward (sp?) in Houston.

Fort San -- Fort San in Houston, Texas. George served there under -- under Jim Vallis. And then he was... He had been... He was a captain in the Battle of the Bulge.

JOANNE GELLAS: Who?

A3: Oh, no.

JOANNE GELLAS: My brother Jim was --

FLORENCE GELLAS: Jim was in the --

JOANNE GELLAS: Jim was in the Battle of the Bulge.

FLORENCE GELLAS: A major.

Q1: Your brother Jim was a major in the Battle of the Bulge?

What was -- what was -- when did General -- when did Zavalot (sp?) become general?

JOANNE GELLAS: I think after the war. He became a general after the war. He stayed in the army and was gradually promoted. Didn't he marry a Zagaris (sp?)?

Q1: He married -- who was his first wife?

JOANNE GELLAS: She was a very nice person. She wasn't Greek.

Q1: No. The first wife wasn't Greek. I know that. I know the second wife is Ann Aldridge (sp?) -- Ann Aldridge's sister.

JOANNE GELLAS: Segaris (sp?).

Q1: I -- I --

JOANNE GELLAS: Her maiden name is Segaris.

Q2: So he attended Saint Nicholas?

JOANNE GELLAS: Huh?

Q2: He was a... He was a member of Saint Nicholas church? He attended Saint Nicholas Church?

JOANNE GELLAS: You know, Ann Aldridge was a student of mine the first year I taught.

Q1: Was she really?

JOANNE GELLAS: The first year that I taught, she was a student of mine. She and another Greek girl. Peshas (sp?).

Q1: Oh, Dr. Peshas's --

JOANNE GELLAS: Did you know Peshas? He was a doctor, wasn't he?

Q2: (inaudible) Peshas (inaudible).

Q1: Ann is his sister. His sister.

JOANNE GELLAS: His sister and Anna were in my class the first year. I had a permanent sub assignment the first year and they were there.

Q1: Oh. Where'd you teach?

JOANNE GELLAS: Where? Central.

Q1: Central. So they also lived in Newark.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes.

Q2: Everybody lived in Newark.

Q1: Everybody lived in Newark.

JOANNE GELLAS: Well, right back of Central High School, Summit Street there was Greek History.

JOANNE GELLAS: Greek History. Lot of Greek stores. Summit Place and Summit Street, all the Greeks lived there.

Q2: Briggs Street, West Market Street.

JOANNE GELLAS: Well, that was later.

Q2: Later on?

JOANNE GELLAS: That was later.

Q2: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: They came into West Market Street and into Nelson Place. That was later.

Q2: That's what I (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Originally there were Summit Street and Summit Place.

Q2: I came into Howard Street and then Nelson Place. My father.

Q1: (inaudible) know that.

Q2: Well, she knows. She knows.

JOANNE GELLAS: Have you -- have you tried to talk to Bill Tregos (sp?)?

Q1: No, we -- I haven't reached him yet. I sent him a note.

FLORENCE GELLAS: He's not (inaudible) talk?

Q1: Why?

\_: (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: I think his wife -- his father was the cantor at Saint Nicholas. Wasn't he, Florence?

A3: Father (inaudible) cantor.

JOANNE GELLAS: He wasn't the cantor?

FLORENCE GELLAS: No.

A3: Because he grew up on West Market Street. Bill Tregos --

Q1: And his wife, too, grew up in that area, right?

JOANNE GELLAS: Thirteenth -- 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Q1: Thirteenth Avenue.

JOANNE GELLAS: Corner of Howard Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. His sister went to Greece.

A3: Married a doctor.

JOANNE GELLAS: Married a doctor.

Q1: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: Not the one I was friendly with, the one who went to Greece.

Q2: Whose wife was a cashier at the theater, my mother used to

tell me.

JOANNE GELLAS: Right. She's the one.

Q2: Yes. Am I right?

Q1: Well, then, she should be any to tell us, even if they're  
(inaudible) to talk about it.

Q2: Yes. Yes, she is.

Q1: I mean...

JOANNE GELLAS: But she's had a stroke.

Q1: Jean has had a stroke?

JOANNE GELLAS: Jean had a stroke.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Tina was the one that would know, but...

JOANNE GELLAS: She would know if she's aware.

Q2: Yes, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: She would know if she's aware.

Q1: The one in Greece?

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, no. Jean, Jean.

A3: No, Jean.

JOANNE GELLAS: But she had a stroke, so I don't know how...

Q1: Oh, dear. I didn't know that.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, she had a stroke.

Q2: Maybe that's why you (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: What about Rose?

JOANNE GELLAS: Huh?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Rose? Is Rose alive?

JOANNE GELLAS: I don't know.

FLORENCE GELLAS: She was the prettiest one of the bunch.

Q1: Well, how many sisters -- there were five sisters, right?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes, yes. And one brother.

JOANNE GELLAS: He's a fraternal twin. There were two brothers.

FLORENCE GELLAS: One brother --

JOANNE GELLAS: The girls were all born in Greece. The boys were  
born in the United States.

Q1: Ah. One of them, the brothers, is -- is a dentist, isn't  
he? One of Jean's brothers?

JOANNE GELLAS: I don't think so.

Q2: Yes, yes.

Q1: Yes.

Q2: Dr. Katamalis (sp?). Peter Katamalis. Goes to our church.  
He lived on -- they lived on Howard Street. He became an  
engineer, then from engineering school, he went -- became a  
dentist. He's an orthodontist.



Q1: He was a cousin, maybe?

Q2: (inaudible) Peter.

JOANNE GELLAS: You sure it -- you sure it's a brother and not a nephew?

Q2: It's a brother. It's a brother.

JOANNE GELLAS: Are you sure?

Q2: Sure. The Katamalis one.

\_: (inaudible).

Q1: Yes. I know that.

Q2: Her -- her brother's name is Peter, Dr. Katamalis.

JOANNE GELLAS: But I don't know. Peter Katamalis is the very youngest one. Yes. Very -- down the tail end of a family.

Q2: So he must be around 70, I guess. He's about six years older.

JOANNE GELLAS: Well, then, it must be.

Q2: Peter Katamalis.

JOANNE GELLAS: Well, then, that's who it is.

Q1: Yes. OK. Is there anything else you can tell us about life I Newark? Were you involved in -- you weren't involved in any American organizations? You weren't allowed. But tell us if it was a parade, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade and they

had to have a float in the parade of Newark.

JOANNE GELLAS: I don't know.

A3: Doesn't mean anything.

FLORENCE GELLAS: I don't know. I can't say.

Q1: Would you (inaudible)?

JOANNE GELLAS: We were restricted.

FLORENCE GELLAS: I know. So was I. I mean, you know, it was the times. Up to a certain point.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. There was a dentist on our street who had a son that Florence was very friendly with, and my grandmother caught her talking to him one day -- talking to him on the street, public --

A3: Talking, how about that.

Q1: And?

JOANNE GELLAS: No and. I don't have to continue.

Q2: That was it.

JOANNE GELLAS: That was it.

Q2: It's amazing, huh, how things have -- have changed.

JOANNE GELLAS: They sure have changed.

\_: (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: They sure have changed. But, you know, I had a

Jewish girlfriend. Jenny Weinstein. He name was Jenny, too. I was very friendly with her, and she came to our house. We were working on a project and she came to our house because we had a one family house. She lived in an apartment and it was suppertime and my grandmother said, you know, (inaudible) got to feed the girl. And my grandmother, I think, had made kastelas (sp?) and Jenny took a kastela -- she's rolling it around in her mouth and rolling it around in her... I said, "My grandmother's a good cook. Eat it." Later when I discovered about kosher, if it wasn't kosher, she wouldn't eat it.

Q1: Oh, no. It wasn't kosher.

JOANNE GELLAS: She was Orthodox. I said to her, "Why didn't you tell me --

Q1: Exactly.

JOANNE GELLAS: -- that you couldn't eat that meat? Why didn't you tell me?"

Q2: Yes. It was kosher.

JOANNE GELLAS: I said, "Eat it. It's very good. My grandmother's a very good cook."

Q2: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: Later, I discovered -- you know, I was young. We

were in an elementary school, you know, high school.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: Everybody we brought in was OK. And all --  
we brought them in but we couldn't go.

JOANNE GELLAS: That's right. They could come to us but --

FLORENCE GELLAS: Come to us.

JOANNE GELLAS: -- we couldn't go to them.

Q1: As your friends.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes.

Q1: They could come into your house?

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, that's right. They could come to --

Q1: But the parties were strictly family?

JOANNE GELLAS: Strictly family. Strictly cousins and aunts and  
uncles. And when I say aunts and uncles, first cousins of  
my father. Because we had (inaudible) his uncle.

A3: Yes. Uncle Louie, (inaudible).

Q2: The holidays. How about the holidays? Can you tell us  
about the holidays, like Easter?

A3: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: You know, we used to call his aunt Thea  
(inaudible) but his father was called by his first name, Sam

and Louie.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Sam and Louie.

JOANNE GELLAS: Sam and Louie.

Q2: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: But Sam (inaudible). The woman was Thea but the men weren't.

Q2: Right. That's amazing.

JOANNE GELLAS: Did you hear about Louie Marcos (sp?) giving a lecture at --

Q2: I was there, I was there. It was -- we had a 100 -- getting sidetracked. My father (inaudible). A hundred and sixty people. You'd have been proud of him.

\_: (inaudible).

(break in audio)

JOANNE GELLAS: Because I can't -- can't think of anything else.

Q1: Did anyone help your father when he first arri -- any Greek help your father when he first arrived in the United States?

JOANNE GELLAS: I have no idea.

Q1: You have no idea. Your grandparent --

JOANNE GELLAS: I have no idea.

Q1: But the ones who did help him were the -- the Germans and --

the Jewish people, you said, were the ones who helped your father?

FLORENCE GELLAS: There was a Jewish man that helped him a lot.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. He had a lot of help from the Jewish people.

Q2: OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: You know.

Q2: That's interesting, again.

Q1: Again.

Q2: Because we're finding out that not too many people were being helped by Greeks. Greeks were not actually being helped by Greeks. They were outside (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: If the family did discuss anything like this, we were told to leave.

Q2: Yes, yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: We were children.

Q2: Right.

JOANNE GELLAS: So we wouldn't hear any of this as children.

Q1: And I thought, too, that... You're not aware. You've involved in your own little world and you don't really listen to what they're saying. No. Sorry. But you don't listen, you don't...

A3: No. You weren't interested.

Q1: That's right. So if you're not interested, you don't pay attention.

Q2: Because your age has a lot to do with it. Interesting.

JOANNE GELLAS: Do you want any of these?

Q1: Yes, I'd love all of them. Can we put all of --

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible) on these?

Q1: You know what? We're not going to use any of these, and everything will be returned to you. And once the transcripts are done, if -- whatever we decide to use -- well, we're doing that now and it's going to take a year, at least --

Q2: At least.

Q1: -- to do this research.

JOANNE GELLAS: It's quite a project. I'm amazing that you --

(break in audio)

Q1: -- talk about the (inaudible).

Q2: 1914 (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Military Park, (inaudible) Rally.

FLORENCE GELLAS: You had a (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Stand?

Q1: A stand?

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. But, you know, it had a platform.

Q2: A stage.

JOANNE GELLAS: Stage.

Q2: Yes.

FLORENCE GELLAS: And they were there.

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible) we were there and I was there with my brother, Jim, who of course was... And I lost him in Military Park. And, of course, they found him at the police station. I found -- father found him at the police station. But there was a big crowd there and I was looking at (inaudible) and everything about the box. Said World War I. World War I.

Q2: Wow.

JOANNE GELLAS: Now, how old was I then? Six, seven years old?

Q2: You remember it. Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: I remember it. This is clear to me as if it was yesterday. I can close my eyes and see those (inaudible) as the stage and Mary Pitford up there and everything.

Q2: Wow.

JOANNE GELLAS: It was... What do we call this? What's the one that has... A deck. No, a gazebo. Yes.



**END OF AUDIO FILE 1**

Q2: Mentoring the beginning teacher. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven.

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible) in a suitcase, but I don't know what she did with the suitcase. Whether it's up in the attic or whether it's down in the basement.

Q2: Wow.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Maybe when one of the nephews and nieces comes over you could ask them.

Q2: Yes. Or whenever you come across something, you know, just let us know, you know.

JOANNE GELLAS: If by any chance I should come across the suitcase, I'll let you know. But it'll be a long time before you get this.

Q2: Yes. Oh, yes. Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: A long time.

FLORENCE GELLAS: It's going to be a very long time.

Q2: Yes. From what Kiki (sp?) said, it's going to take...

Q1: Because I've written two books and it -- the first one took seven years, the second one took four years. And it -- there's a (inaudible) process which Peter was not aware of.

FLORENCE GELLAS: I'm sorry I can't offer you lunch.

Q1: No, don't be silly.

Q2: Don't be silly.

FLORENCE GELLAS: I can't. I just can't do anything anymore.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

Q1: A glass of water.

FLORENCE GELLAS: You got the glass on the sink. So every...

\_: (inaudible) forget this.

FLORENCE GELLAS: (inaudible) you have no idea.

\_: (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: She's also confused. Very confused.

Q2: So you -- you would take pictures every graduation and every holiday? Not -- the special occasions?

JOANNE GELLAS: Just Easter we'd take them.

Q2: Just Easter?

JOANNE GELLAS: (inaudible).

Q2: (inaudible) just Easter you'd take pictures with the family?

Q1: But you would leave -- say that again because the tape is on now.

Q2: You'd leave church?

Q1: You'd leave church.

Q2: You'd leave (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: We would leave church on Easter Sunday and stop at the photographer's, because we were all nicely dressed in our best apparel.

Q1: You went to the (inaudible) service on Easter?

JOANNE GELLAS: That's right. The (inaudible) service. After the (inaudible) service.

Q1: Do you remember what it was like going to -- thank you. To your health.

\_: (inaudible).

Q2: How about (inaudible) after Easter service, walking home with the candles. Do you remember...?

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. My brothers used to walk. I never walked out with a candle.

Q2: Oh, all right.

JOANNE GELLAS: But my brothers used to try to do that.

Q2: Down Hodge Street up to Nelson Place. (inaudible). OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: So it was a good life. It was a good life. I can't complain. God has been good. I'm amazed that my life has lasted as long as it has.

Q2: You left out -- excuse me. You left out a very important part, because you were also the Sunday School Director of

Saint Nicholas for quite a while.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, yes.

Q2: What years was that? (inaudible)?

JOANNE GELLAS: I think '59, '58. The reason I place it there -- '57 I made my first trip to Greece and then Father Alupeos (sp?) was appointed at Saint Nicholas. And what's his name -- Mike Pappas asked me if I would be a Sunday school teacher. And I said, "Yes, I'll be a Sunday school teacher." And then gradually, I became the Sunday school director. And I did it. Of course, after my father died, I still stayed on. But my mother wasn't well, so I gave it up. I'm trying to think of when I gave it up. It had to be sometime in the early '70s. I must have had it for ten years or so.

Q1: And your brothers were on the board of Saint Nicholas?

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. Jim was.

Q1: Jim was, right?

Q2: Jim was vice-president. He was (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: Because he was (inaudible).

A3: Jim was, not George.

Q1: Did your father get involved in the church at all?

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

JOANNE GELLAS: He was involved. Oh, yeah, he was involved.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

JOANNE GELLAS: Wasn't -- Well, who was treasurer? (inaudible)?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Grandpa.

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, Grandpa.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Grandpa.

JOANNE GELLAS: My grandfather was treasurer. He was the one that was really active. But my father was involved, but not to the extent that my grandfather or my brothers were --

FLORENCE GELLAS: He was (inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: -- about things like that.

Q1: Did you remember the bishop who talk -- who talked to your grandfather (inaudible)?

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes.

A3: Yes. (inaudible).

Q1: What's his name?

JOANNE GELLAS: I'm trying to think of it. I'm trying to think of his name. I can't think of it now.

Q2: That's OK.

Q1: Who was the first priest at Saint Nicholas?

JOANNE GELLAS: Who was the first priest?

Q1: Right. At the old church.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes. Cruciados (sp?).

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes.

JOANNE GELLAS: Cruciados.

Q2: Cruciados.

JOANNE GELLAS: Father Cruciados. But my mother lived him. Said  
he was very, very nice. Somebody named Cruciados.

Q1: Oh. Did he live in Newark?

JOANNE GELLAS: I don't know.

Q1: Oh, OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: I don't know.

Q1: You weren't born, right?

JOANNE GELLAS: That's right.

Q1: Oh, OK.

JOANNE GELLAS: Yes, we weren't born. Right. We weren't born.  
We weren't even a thought at that time.

Q1: You were like (inaudible).

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

JOANNE GELLAS: My mother had a couple of miscarriages before  
Florence was born. You know, we had... My sister-in-law's  
mother was married the same year as our mother. And when

Flor -- when Florence said that she was younger than my sis -- than this man -- than that woman's son, she said, "How can that be? Your mother was married in February and I was married in June. How come you're younger?" But she was a character. She was a character. She was a character. Her son's name was Sabosaladro (sp?). It was Sidney (sp?).

Q1: Sidney Sabosaladro?

FLORENCE GELLAS: Sabosaladro.

JOANNE GELLAS: We called him Sidney. He called my father Sal from Saladro. (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: He was funny.

JOANNE GELLAS: He went to Cornell, Sidney did.

Q1: And which sister-in-law is this? Excuse me.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Dorothy.

Q1: Dorothy? I don't...

JOANNE GELLAS: Dorothy.

Q1: I don't know Dorothy.

JOANNE GELLAS: Dorothy Sculperson (sp?).

FLORENCE GELLAS: (inaudible) in front of him.

JOANNE GELLAS: Oh, you will. (inaudible).

FLORENCE GELLAS: I knew the Sculperson family. I mean, I had

heard of them.

JOANNE GELLAS: And she died three years ago. They -- they're daughter convinced them to sell their house in Florida and come live with their son in Lake (inaudible). She lasted one year. Well, she couldn't take care of herself, and this way they felt -- they -- (inaudible) and her son built a house and he had an apartment for his parents on the ground floor, where they had their own living room, bedroom, and bath. Very nice. It's very nice. But she lasted just about a year after they came up here. She wasn't well. They couldn't keep going down to Florida all the time because she wasn't well, and they convinced them to come back up north. Which (inaudible). She was a difficult person, Dorothy. Very difficult. Not (inaudible) just because of us, but her whole family. Her brother and her sister. She was very difficult. She wasn't talking to some of them at some time. She was an odd ball. But, you know, my grandmother knew the family in Greece and she'd say, "[Greek]." That was their -- her mother's maiden name. Can't think of her mother's maiden name. My grandfather -- my grandmother would say, "[Greek]." He wanted to wear a [hustabella?] every Sunday and he wanted his [hustabella?] to be fresh. And if his wife didn't start washing and soaking and getting that [hustabella?] ready, he would have



a rope, my grandmother said, (inaudible). And if that [hustabella?] wasn't ready on Sunday, he would beat her with that rope.

Q2: Is that right?

Q1: Oh.

Q2: Oh, my god.

JOANNE GELLAS: Dorothy's grandfather.

Q2: Man. Those old-timers were rough.

Q1: Yes. There was a book that was written by one -- a Greek American girl. I guess now she's in her 40s or 50s, but talking about... I guess these people must have come from very small villages. But they -- they were not nice to their daughters. They didn't want their daughters to be educated. They beat them. They treated them terribly. I mean, they -- their wives.

JOANNE GELLAS: Second class citizens.

FLORENCE GELLAS: Yes.

Q1: It was -- it was a terrible book to read. It was not any -- the experiences that I had growing up. It was a different... My mother was very... I think she was...

**End - Joanne and Florence Gellas**